

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Sunday, May 11, 2025

Only one problem...

Fields of study with the highest 10-year earnings at UC and CSU campuses
Median annualized earnings 10 years after graduation for undergraduate alumni working in California

Campus	Field of study	Median earnings
UC Berkeley	Computer science	\$979K
UC Berkeley	Business	\$950K
UCLA	Computer science	\$918K
UC Santa Barbara	Computer science	\$916K
CSU San Luis Obispo	Computer science	\$923K
UC Davis	Computer science	\$923K
UC Berkeley	Engineering	\$923K
UC Berkeley	Economics	\$920K
CSU San Jose	Nursing	\$918K
UC San Diego	Computer science	\$918K
UCLA	Business	\$914K
CSU San Francisco	Nursing	\$910K
CSU East Bay	Nursing	\$909K
UC Santa Cruz	Computer science	\$909K
UC Santa Cruz	Engineering	\$909K

Based on quarterly wage data for students who graduated from 2000 to 2022. The data includes alumni working outside California, those who are self-employed in sole proprietorship and federal government employees. Only campuses and majors with at least 30 graduates are shown.
Table: Nate Jurenski / S.F. Chronicle • Source: University of California, California State University

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) published the table above of salaries of high-paid undergrad majors. Note that UCLA's business major is among those listed. Only one problem, UCLA does not have an undergrad business major. It does have a "business economics" major within Economics. There hasn't been a straight business major at UCLA since the 1960s.

Yours truly has dim memories of surveys of UCLA undergrads in which many reported "majoring" in business (probably after having taken some undergrad accounting courses) even before the business economics major existed.

Source of table: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/uc-berkeley-computer-science-salary-gap-20307107.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:



Labels: CSU, UC-Berkeley, UC-Davis, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Cruz, UCLA

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Lots of cash now but maybe not in the future

The April cash report from the state controller continues with the paradox of more revenue coming into the state than anticipated and yet projections for a budget squeeze next fiscal year.

Revenues for the first 10 months of the year (July through April) were \$4.4 billion ahead of the forecast made last January when the governor presented his budget proposal for 2025-26. They were \$8.8 billion ahead of the projections made last June when the current budget was enacted.

Virtually all of this overage is coming from the state's personal income tax which suggests what we are seeing is capital gains from the stock market based on gains in 2024, i.e., before the current stock market gyrations began in response to tariffs, etc.

Note that because of the fires, taxpayers in LA County did not have to file in April so there probably would have been more overage had the fires not occurred. Taxpayers who owe money in LA County have no particular incentive to file early, but those due refunds had such an incentive.

The state has well over \$90 billion in unused borrowable resources so we won't see the kind of IOU/warrant financing we saw in the past if the economy does go south next fiscal year. The governor is due to unveil his May Revise budget proposal next week.



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You can find the controller's report through April 2025 at:

<https://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/April2025StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:14 AM No comments: 

Labels: controller, governor, State Budget

4 UCLA faculty members have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences



Clockwise, from top left: Marilyn Raphael, Heather Maynard, Edward Leamer and Sorin Popa.

UCLA's Heather Maynard, Sorin Popa, Marilyn Raphael and the late Edward Leamer have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences for their achievements in original research. The four professors are part of a new class of 120 members and 30 international members, the academy announced today. Membership in the academy is among the most prestigious honors in the United States scientific community, requiring election by a scholar's peers. The nongovernmental organization now has 2,662 active members, who can be called on by the federal government to provide their expertise on issues regarding science and technology.

UCLA's new National Academy of Sciences members for 2025 are:

Edward Leamer (posthumous)

Distinguished professor emeritus of global economics and management, UCLA Anderson School of Management

Over the course of an academic career spanning five decades at UCLA, Leamer, who died Feb. 25, made profound contributions to the field of economics in areas as varied as research methodologies, global economics and economic forecasting. He was the author of five books and more than 100 papers in leading academic journals, including his seminal 1983 article "Let's Take the Con Out of Econometrics," in which he argued that his colleagues needed to take a more critical approach and adopt greater transparency in their economic modeling to avoid limitations and potential biases. As director of the UCLA Anderson Forecast from 2000 to 2016, his quarterly economic predictions were closely watched across media, business, government and other fields, both in California and across the country.

At UCLA Anderson, where he taught courses in business and global economics, Leamer chaired more than 30 doctoral committees, and his students went on to hold important roles across academia, government and the private sector, both in the U.S. and internationally.

"It can be difficult to summarize Ed's myriad essential contributions to the field of economics because his specific interests broadened, shifted and evolved throughout his career," UCLA Anderson Dean Antonio Bernardo said at the time of Leamer's death. "But it is impossible to overstate his impact."

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Heather Maynard

Professor of chemistry and biochemistry, UCLA College

Maynard, UCLA's Dr. Myung Ki Hong Professor of Polymer Science and associate director for technology and development at the California NanoSystems Institute at UCLA, is a worldwide leader in the development of protein-polymer conjugates, which are important therapeutics for a variety of diseases. In her lab, she develops new synthetic methods to make the materials, invents new polymers to improve properties such as stability, and demonstrates the preclinical efficacy of her conjugates with an eye toward translation for human health. She also works in the area of precision medicine, designing "smart materials" that respond to disease states in the body.

Maynard, who is an associate editor of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, also co-directs the National Science Foundation-funded BioPACIFIC Materials Innovation Platform, an initiative at UCLA and UC Santa Barbara. Her research work has been recognized with numerous honors, including election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the U.K.'s Royal Society of Chemistry. Maynard has been UCLA faculty member since 2002.

"I am thrilled to be elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences, which has an enormous impact on promoting, supporting and distilling innovative science in the United States and around the world," Maynard said. "I feel incredibly honored to be part of this illustrious community."

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Contributors

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Sorin Popa**Professor of mathematics, UCLA College**

Popa is internationally recognized for his work in operator algebras related to quantum physics and is regarded as one of the leading figures in modern mathematical analysis. In addition to quantum physics, his work has influenced areas as diverse as group theory and ergodic theory. A UCLA professor since 1987, Popa earned wide acclaim in the mathematics community for elaborating a revolutionary new method for classifying von Neumann algebras, operator algebras associated with actions of groups on measure spaces. His work led to the solution of many mathematical problems that were believed to be unsolvable for several decades and to new concepts in deformation/rigidity theory.

A former chair of the UCLA math department, Popa has been a mentor to and collaborator with generations of students. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his groundbreaking work and is an elected fellow of both the American Mathematical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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Marilyn Raphael**Professor of geography, UCLA College and UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability**

Raphael is a climate scientist who studies global climate change, atmospheric circulation, and the complex dynamics behind how and why Antarctica's sea ice levels vary from season to season. Her recent research indicates that melting Antarctic sea ice is becoming far less likely to recover, suggesting the continent's ice system is undergoing a major transformation. Raphael is the author of more than 60 academic papers, many of them highly cited, and is the co-author of "The Encyclopedia of Weather and Climate Change: A Complete Visual Guide," which received the Most Popular Book award from Atmospheric Science Librarians International. Her work and writing continues to shape both academic inquiry and public understanding of polar climate dynamics.

A UCLA faculty member since 1998, Raphael is the former director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the former chair of UCLA's geography department. A past president of the American Association of Geographers and former co-chair of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's expert group on sea ice processes, Raphael serves on the National Academies Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate and is co-lead of the World Climate Research Programme's Polar Climate Predictability Initiative. In addition to her research, she has been active in mentoring students and advocating for the inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups in climate science.

"It is a tremendous honor to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences," Raphael said. "I feel grateful to have my research and service be valued so highly by the community. I look forward to working with the academy to advance its mission of 'fostering a broad understanding of science,' especially in the Antarctic."

Source: <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/4-faculty-elected-to-national-academy-of-sciences>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: 

Labels: [UC-Santa Barbara](#), [UCLA](#)

\$25 Million

From the [LA Business Journal](#): Shirley and Walter Wang – the chief executive and president of Westchester-based plastic pipe maker JM Eagle Inc. – have agreed to give \$25 million to UCLA Health to create the UCLA Walter and Shirley Wang Center for Integrative Digestive Health. The center will offer help to those living with gastrointestinal disorders. The center takes a holistic approach, looking at disorders in a variety of ways. For the Wangs, the decision to donate to UCLA was personal.



"My son was quite sick with stomach issues and almost couldn't graduate," Shirley Wang recalled. Enter Eric Esraillian, chief of the UCLA Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases and director of the Melvin and Bren Simon Digestive Diseases Center. He encouraged the Wangs to bring their son to UCLA for treatment. Shirley said she appreciated the center's holistic approach and how it "looks at things as a whole."

"It really helped my son," she said. While in the waiting room, Shirley Wang said she heard the receptionist tell someone they would have to wait a year for the center's next appointment. "That's why Walter and I decided to donate to this so more and more people could access this treatment and be looked at holistically," she said, adding that her son was now doing well.

"Thanks to their visionary and transformational gift, the UCLA Walter and Shirley Wang Center for Integrative Digestive Health will be the undisputed global leader in this field," Esraillian said in a statement about the donation. "Our clinicians and researchers have taught the world about digestive health and wellness for decades. The formalization of this endowed center is unprecedented." ...

Full story at <https://labusinessjournal.com/featured/ucla-health-gets-25-million-donation/>.

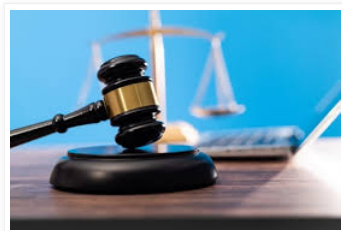
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM

No comments:

Labels: fund raising, UCLA

Friday, May 9, 2025

Med School Lawsuit



From the [LA Times](#): A federal class-action lawsuit accuses UCLA's medical school and various university officials of using race as a factor in admissions, despite a state law and Supreme Court ruling striking down affirmative action.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in California's Central District federal court, was brought by the activist group Do No Harm, founded in 2022 to fight affirmative action in medicine; Students for Fair Admissions, the nonprofit that won its suit at the Supreme Court against Harvard's affirmative action program; and Kelly Mahoney, a college graduate who was rejected from UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine...

Citing unnamed "whistleblowers," the lawsuit alleges that Jennifer Lucero, the associate dean for admissions, "requires applicants to submit responses that are intended to allow the Committee to glean the applicant's race, which the medical school later confirms via interviews." ...Lucero did not immediately respond to an emailed request to comment...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-05-08/federal-lawsuit-alleges-ucla-medical-school-uses-racial-preferences-admissions>.

The actual lawsuit is at:

<https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/UCLA%20Med%20School%20Complaint%20SFFA%205-8-25.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 11:00 AM

No comments:

Labels: diversity, health care, UCLA

The Penn Letter



The University of Pennsylvania received a nine-page letter dated May 8th from the US Department of Education requesting documentation of foreign funding donations.

The letter says that "incomplete" and "untimely" submissions of past required disclosures of such funding "may have" been submitted in the past, going back to 2017. It then includes a lengthy list of required documents to be submitted.

U-Penn is given thirty days to submit the documentation and ten days to request any clarification of what is required.

We have been collecting documents such as the Penn letter. It can be read at:

<https://ia800402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/U-Penn%20notice-of-foreign-funding%20investigation%205-8-2025.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:36 AM

No comments:

Labels: fund raising, politics, U of Pennsylvania

Changing Times

Message from Linda Sarna,
President of the University Club [via email]

May 5, 2025

Dear Club Members,

Happy Cinco de Mayo!

It has been a busy month and I have important news to share.



At our March Board meeting, we approved a new set of Bylaws, now posted on our website. The revised Bylaws reduced the number of Board seats to five elected and three non-elected members. We also restructured the leadership so that the five elected members now serve as a "Committee of the Whole." Officer titles have been updated as well: Chair; Vice Chair 1

(Secretary); and Vice Chair 2 (Treasurer). The leadership team is rounded out by two at-large members.

The new Bylaws specified that the composition of the 2025-26 Board was to consist of five continuing members from the 2024-2025 Board who were duly elected and willing to continue their service. In our April Board meeting we held a vote to officially elect them.

- Chair, Victoria Steele (term ends in 2026)
- Vice Chair 1, Steve Cederbaum (term ends in 2027)
- Vice Chair 2, Kyle McJunkin (term ends in 2027)
- At-large member, Claire Bellanti (term ends in 2026)
- At-large member, Matt Lindauer (term ends in 2028)

Non-elected liaisons who will continue as voting members are:

- Emeriti Association, Bruce Miller
- Faculty Women's Club, Anne Marie Spataru
- UCLA Administration, Sue Santon
- Sheila Davis, Anne Pautler, and I will conclude our service on June 30th.

The new Board members will begin their terms July 1, 2025.

As I noted in my prior message, we will hold a full election in Spring 2026 to fill vacancies left by outgoing members.

In line with the requirements of our Bylaws, I have notified Chancellor Frenk about the new Board roster for 2025-2026.

Our final 2024-2025 Board meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2-3, will be in person at the Club and available via Zoom. Please note that we are cancelling the previously scheduled June 18 Board Meeting.

At the May meeting, Al Ferrone, Senior Director of UCLA's Housing & Hospitality will share with us available information about the financial status of the Club since the transition to our new partnership in January. This report will reflect usage of the Club by Members and for events. We will have an opportunity to ask questions about events as well as the financial prospects for reopening of the Coral Grill. As you recall, in order to address our over \$6.5 million deficit, during these past several months we have been focused on continuing our mission in a cost-conscious way that will ensure stability for the future.

Some of you may have noticed that the "Faculty Club" sign has been removed from our outside front wall. While we wait for the new "UCLA University Club" sign to be installed, we are working on a media roll-out to officially announce our new name and brand identity. Stay tuned!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lupe Morales for accepting the assignment to serve as Interim General Manager. We are fortunate to have her leadership during this transitional period. For now, a campus-wide hiring freeze is impacting our recruitment of a permanent General Manager.

In closing, I also want to offer my profound gratitude to all the members of the Board who have agreed to serve on the incoming Board. Grateful thanks as well to those who will be stepping off in June. Above all, I thank you, our members, for your ongoing support. It has been quite a year!

Best wishes,

Linda Sarna

President, University Club

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM

No comments:

Labels: faculty center, UCLA

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